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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/054,689

11/13/2001

Harry V. Weber

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EXAMINER

DASS, HARISH T

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/054,689	<b>Applicant(s)</b> WEBER, HARRY V.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Harish T. Dass	<b>Art Unit</b> 3693	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 February 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-57 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-10 and 26-54 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

Claims status: 1-10 and 26-54 are withdrawn.

Claims 11-25 and 55-57 are rejected.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 14-20, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 14 recites the limitation "web-based system" in lines 3-4, and claim 15 recites the limitation "web-based system" in lines 3-4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Correct all antecedent basis error.

### ***Double Patenting***

2. Claim 15 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 14. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marybeth Regan (hereinafter Regan – “Utilizing the Internet in education”, College and University, Washington: Spring 2001 Vol. 76, Iss, 4; pg 37, 8pgs”) in view of Ireland et al. (hereinafter Ireland – US 7,062,462).

Re. Claim 11, Regan discloses

a first information collection service for obtaining requested personal and financial information about a given student [pages 4 paragraph # 8 to page 5 paragraph # 2]; and

Regan does not explicitly disclose a financial aid estimation service for generating a predicted amount of monetary aid that may be available for the student to use for education-related expenses, whereby the predicted amount of monetary aid generated via said financial aid estimation service is based on information obtained via said first information collection service. However, Ireland discloses this feature [Figure 1; col. 15 lines 4-26; col. 7 lines 6-31, additionally see figures which have more information]. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosure of Regan and include a financial aid estimation service for generating a predicted amount of monetary aid that may be available for the student to use for education-related expenses, whereby the predicted amount of monetary aid generated via said financial aid estimation service is based on information obtained via said first information collection service, as

disclosed by Ireland, to provide an online student financial aid resource which allows the student/parent to calculate the estimated cost of educational and available financial aid require for student to attend an educational institution.

Re. Claim 12, Regan discloses wherein said web-based application further comprises a registration service for applying for and receiving a user identification element, and whereby said user identification element is utilized for obtaining future access to said web-based application, including various features and services thereof [see enrollment and online application].

Re. Claim 13, Regan discloses a second information collection service, for obtaining additionally requested information related to personal demographics, financial matters, and educational endeavors of a given student [see enrollment certification, inherent in enrollment process].

Re. Claim 13, Regan discloses a federal link service for electronically relaying federal aid eligibility information between the web-based system and selected government agencies, wherein one of said selected government agencies corresponds to the United States Department of Education [pages 4 paragraph # 8 to page 5 paragraph # 2; see [ed.gov/...](http://ed.gov/), [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov)].

Re. Claim 16, Regan or Ireland does not explicitly disclose a student file establishment service for generating a hard copy of selected information pertaining to a given student. However, this feature is will-known and inherent in Regan and Ireland and obvious in any application where copies of applications are made either for distribution or student copy to keep as reference. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosure of Regan and Ireland and include a printer and printer configuration to allow the

student/administrators to make allowable hard copy for reference and archive purposes.

Re. Claim 17-25, and 55-57 Regan discloses federal aid link service provides links at the web-based system for directly connecting a user to a FAFSA on-line web-based location and to an Ins on-line web-based location [page 4 paragraph 8].

Ireland discloses selected information obtained via said student file establishment service comprises information obtained via said first information collection service and said second information collection service, federal aid eligibility information obtained via said federal link service, and enrollment information about a given student obtained from an educational institution [col. 7 lines 10-30, 51-65; see database Figure 1], a file processing service for reviewing obtained information about a given student and for determining eligibility for various types of financial aid that are potentially available to a student, a file processing service for reviewing information collected about a given student via said file establishment service and for determining eligibility for various types of financial aid that are potentially available for a student, a loan application service for electronically relaying master promissory note (MPN) documentation between a system user and a loan guarantor, wherein said loan guarantor is characterized as one who provides monetary assistance to a student for education-related expenses, a reporting system service available to a user of the web-based application, for obtaining updated information about the financial aid system and progress involved with said file processing service thereof, a communications service for automatically generating and sending an electronic communication from a student or educational institution to a student financial aid processor, and wherein the user identification element received via

said registration service is utilized as an electronic signature for affirming various statements presented in accordance with the multi-level financial aid system [see entire document particularly; col. 3 line 51 to col. 4 line 4; col. 6 line 55 to col. 7 line 65; col. 22 lines 7 to col. 23 line 28; claims 1-2]. Additionally, a service for obtaining a copy of an Institutional Student Information Report (ISIR) document for the given student, a service for obtaining enrollment verification information for the given student from one or more specified educational institutions, and wherein selected portions of the information obtained from said first information collection service, said service for obtaining a copy of an ISIR document and said service for obtaining enrollment verification information are reviewed by a financial aid processing center is inherent in Regan and Ireland. Further, an integrated feature that automatically updates the web-based application, particularly updating information related to received documents and progress of financial aid processing is well-known specially software companies website such as Microsoft explores which automatically updates the website. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosure of Regan and include the disclosure of Ireland, as disclosed above, to provide a method and apparatus for students and parents with education financing information, online filing at reduce the costs for a school to transmit financial aid award packages to potential students and help student to apply timely for student aid and get the result/decision quickly using their computer.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harish T. Dass whose telephone number is 571-272-6793. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM to 4:50 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James A. Kramer can be reached on 571-272-6783. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Harish T Dass  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3693

*Harish T Dass*

5/7/07